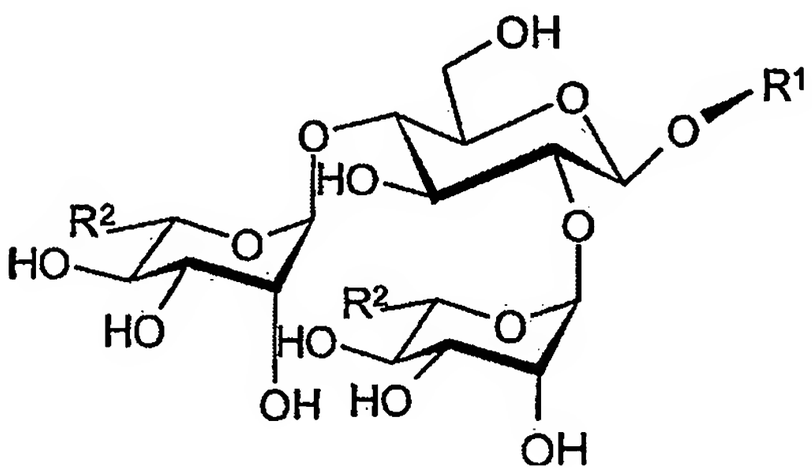
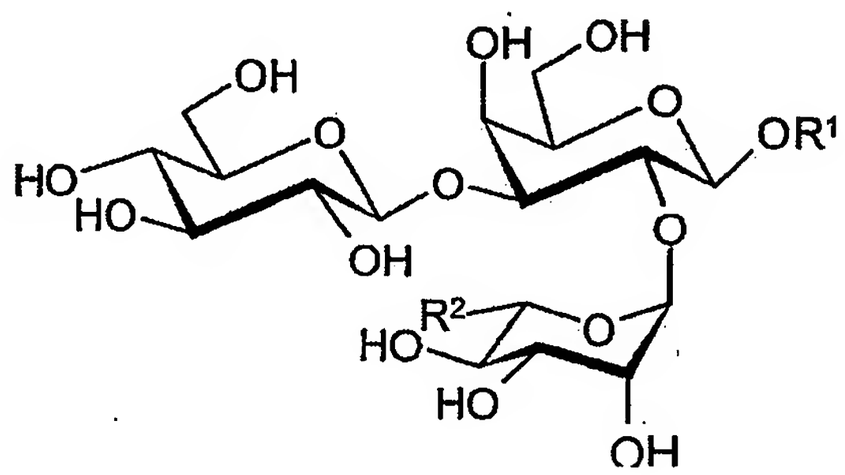
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for the preparation of a steroid modified chacotriose of general formula (Ia) or a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (Ib):



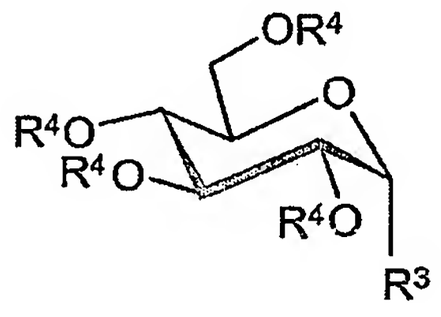
Formula (Ia)



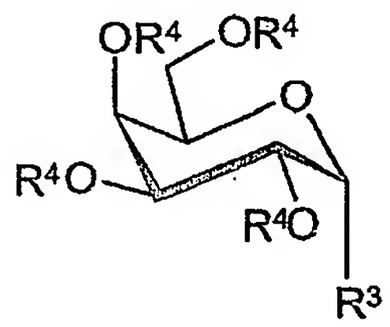
Formula (Ib)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in the 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; and each R^2 independently represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} aryl or heteroaryl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-4} alkyl groups, or a hydroxyl group, which method comprises the step of:

reacting a compound of general formula (IIa) or (IIb)



Formula (IIa)



Formula (IIb)

wherein R^3 represents a halogen atom, an ethylsulfide or a sulfide group; and each R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, substituted benzoyl, whereby the substituents are selected from C_{1-4} alkyl groups, halogen atoms and NO_2, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group;

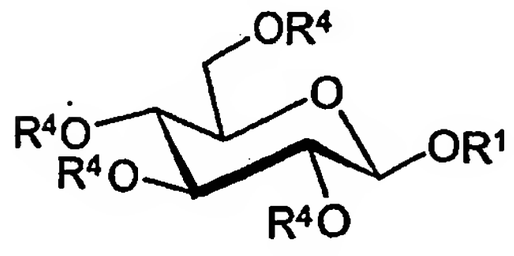
with a compound of general formula (III):

$$HO–R^1$$

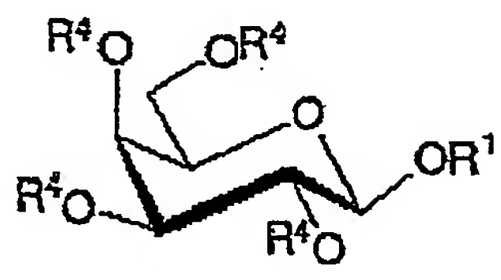
Formula (III)

wherein R^1 is defined as above;

to yield a compound of general formula (IVa) or (IVb):



Formula (IVa)

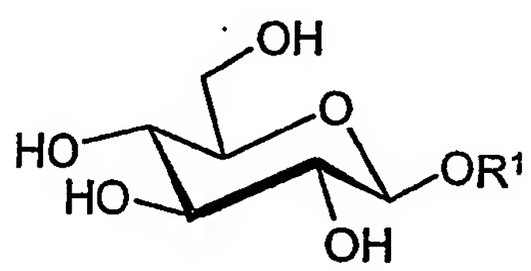


Formula (IVb)

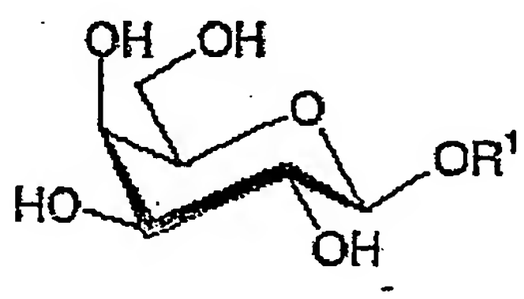
wherein R^1 and R^4 are defined as above.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

deprotecting the compound of general formula (IVa) or (IVb), respectively, as defined in claim 1 to yield a compound of general formula (Va) or (Vb):



Formula (Va)

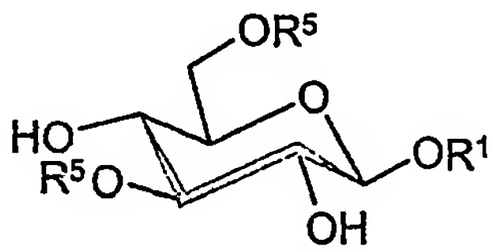


Formula (Vb)

wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1.

3. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2 for preparing a steroid modified chacotrose of general formula (Ia), further comprising the step of:

reacting the compound of general formula (Va) as defined in claim 2 with pivolyl chloride in the presence of an amine base to yield a compound of general formula (VIa):

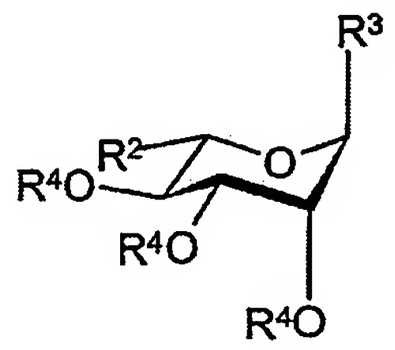


Formula (VIa)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in the 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups ~~is as defined in claim 1~~, and R^5 represents a pivolyl protecting group.

4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 3 for preparing a steroid modified chacotriose of general formula (Ia), further comprising the step of:

reacting the compound of general formula (VIa) as defined in claim 3 with a compound of general formula (VIIa):



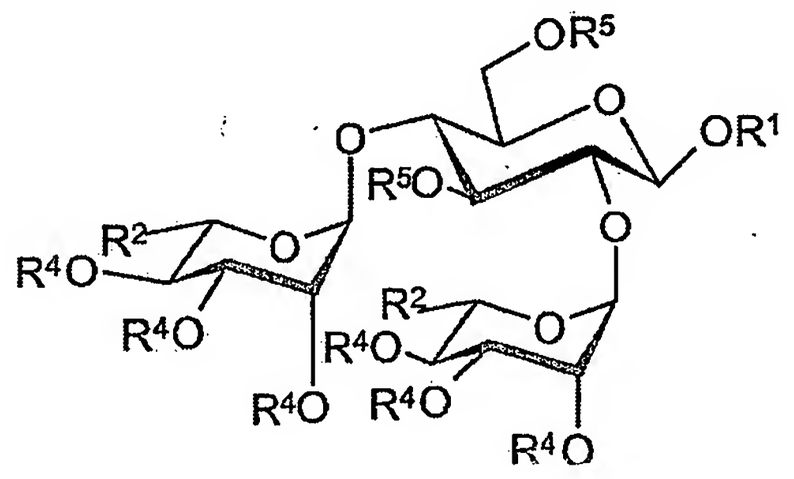
Formula (VIIa)

wherein each R^2 independently represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} aryl or heteroaryl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-4} alkyl groups, or a hydroxyl group;

R^3 represents a halogen atom, an ethylsulfide or a sulfide group; and

each R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, substituted benzoyl, whereby the substituents are selected from C_{1-4} alkyl groups, halogen atoms and NO_2, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group ~~R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1~~;

to yield a compound general formula (VIIIa):



Formula (VIIIa)

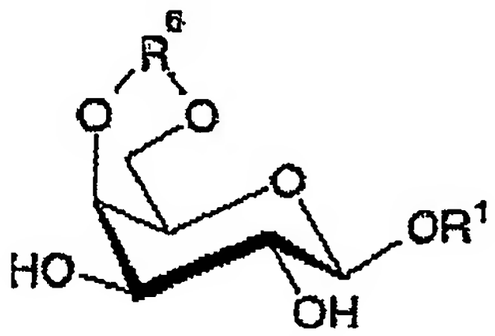
wherein R^1, R^2 and R^4 are as defined above~~in claim 1~~, and R^5 is as defined in claim 3.

5. (currently amended) The method according of ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 4 for preparing a steroid modified chacotriose of general formula (Ia), further comprising the step of:

deprotecting the compound of general formula (VIIIa) as defined in claim 4 to yield the compound of general formula (Ia).

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2 for preparing a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (Ib), further comprising the step of:

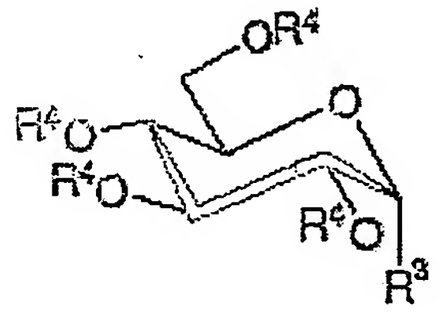
selectively protecting the OH groups in and 4- and 6-position of the compound of formula (Vb) as defined in claim 2 with a ketal or acetal protecting type protecting group using standard conditions, to yield a compound of general formula (Vlb):



Formula (VI b)

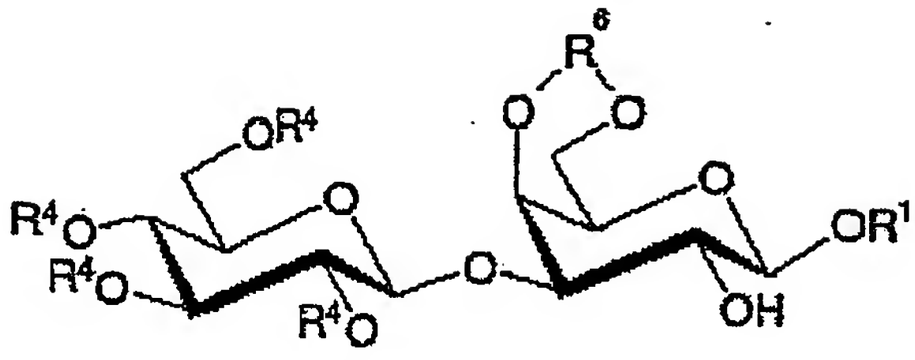
wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in the 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; ~~is as defined in claim 1,~~ and R^6 represents a ketal or acetal type protecting group selected from the group consisting of benzylidene, 4-nitrobenzylidene, 4-methoxybenzylidene and isopropylidene.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 or~~ claim 6 preparing a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (Ib), further comprising the step of:
reacting a compound of formula (VIb) as defined in claim 6 with a compound of general formula (VIIb):



Formula (VIIb)

wherein R^3 represents a halogen atom, an ethylsulfide or a sulfide group; and each R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, substituted benzoyl, whereby the substituents are selected from C_{1-4} alkyl groups, halogen atoms and NO_2, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group; ~~R^3 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1~~, to yield a compound of the general formula (VIIIb):

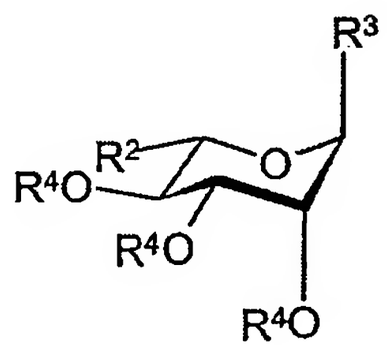


Formula (VIIIb)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in the 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; ~~and~~ R^4 ~~are~~ is as defined above; ~~in claim 1,~~ and R^6 is as defined in Claim 6.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 6 or~~ claim 7 for preparing a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (Ib), further comprising the step of:

reacting a compound of formula (VIIIb) as defined in claim 7 with a compound of formula (VIIa) ~~as defined in claim 4~~



Formula (VIIa)

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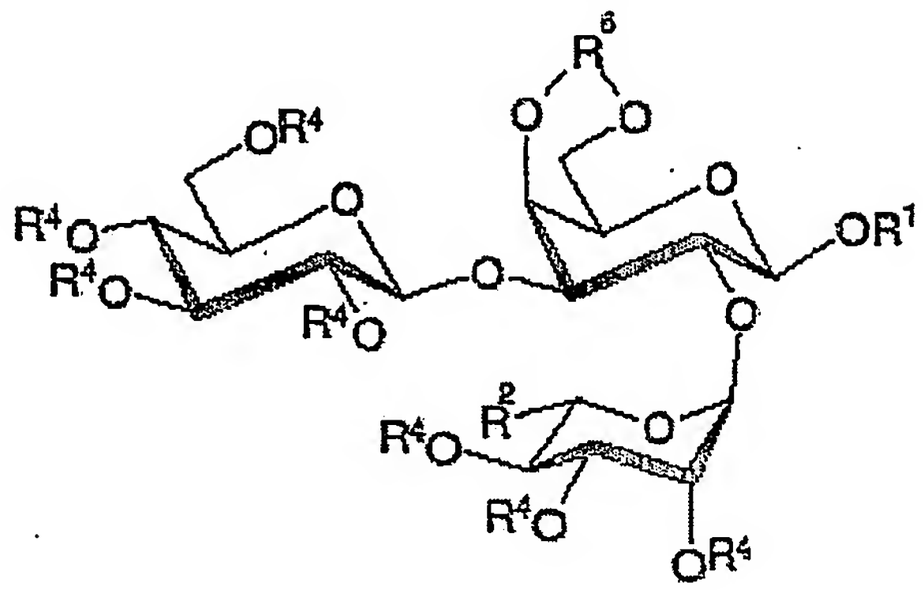
wherein each R^2 independently represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} aryl or heteroaryl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-4} alkyl groups, or a hydroxyl group;

R^3 represents a halogen atom, an ethylsulfide or a sulfide group; and

each R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, substituted benzoyl, whereby the substituents are selected from C_{1-4} alkyl groups, halogen atoms and NO_2, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group;

to yield a compound of formula (IXb):



Formula (IXb)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in the 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; ~~,~~ R^2 and R^4 are as defined ~~in claim 1,~~ above; and R^6 represents a ketal or acetal type protecting group selected from the group consisting of benzylidene, 4-nitrobenzylidene, 4-methoxybenzylidene and isopropylidene ~~is as defined in claim 6~~.

9. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any claims 1, 2, 6, 7 or~~ claim 8 for preparing a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (Ib), further comprising the step of:

deprotecting the compound of formula (IXb) as defined in claim 8 to yield the compound of formula (Ib).

10. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^1 represents a tomatidin-3-yl, demissidin-3-yl, solanidin-3-yl and solasodin-3-yl group.

11. (currently amended) The method according to a~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^2 represents a methyl group.

12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^3 in the compounds of formulae (IIa)~~,~~ and/or (IIb)~~, VIIa) and/or (VIIb)~~ represents a bromine atom.

13. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1, 4, 7 or 8~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a promoter.

14. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of silver triflate, boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, trimethylsilyl triflate bromide, N-iodosuccinimide and dimethyl thiomethyl sulfonium triflate.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the promoter is silver triflate.

16. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1, 4, 7 or 8~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under anhydrous conditions in the presence of 4Å mol sieves.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~or 5~~, wherein deprotection is carried out in dichloromethane or tetrahydrofuran in the presence of a C_{1-4} alcohol and an alkali metal alkoxide having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

18. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein deprotection is carried out in dichloromethane in the presence of methanol and sodium methoxide.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~or 5~~, wherein deprotection is carried out in dichloromethane or tetrahydrofuran in the presence of water, an alkali metal hydroxide and a C_{1-4} alcohol.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein deprotection is carried out in tetrahydrofuran, and wherein the alkali metal hyderoxide is sodium hydroxide and the alcohol is methanol.

21. (original) The method according to claim 1 for preparing a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (lb), wherein R^4 represents a benzoyl or p-toluolyl protecting group.

22. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

wherein reacting a compound of general formula (IIa) or (IIb) with a compound of general formula (III) is carried out in the presence of sterically hindered non-nucleophilic base.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the sterically hindered non-nucleophilic base is selected from 2,6-lutidine, 2,4,6-collidine or 2,6-di-tertbutyl-4-methyl pyridine.

24. (currently amended) A steroid modified chacotriose of general formula (Ia) as defined in claim 1 ~~or 11~~, wherein R^1 represents a tomatidin-3-yl or demissidin-3-yl group.

25. (currently amended) A compound of general formula (VIIIa) as defined in claim 4 ~~any of claims 4, 10 or 11;~~

~~a compound of general formula (VIIIb) as defined in any of claims 7, 10 or 11;~~

~~a compound of general formula (VIa) as defined in any of claims 3, 10 or 11;~~

~~a compound of general formula VIb) as defined in any of claims 6, 10 or 11;~~

~~a compound of general formula (Va) or (Vb) as defined in any of claims 2, 10 or 11;~~

~~a compound of general formula (IVa) or (IVb) as defined in any of claims 1, 10 or 11; or~~

~~a compound of general formula (IXb) as defined in any of claims 8, 10 or 11~~.

26. (new) A compound of general formula (VIIIb) as defined in claim 7.

27. (new) A compound of general formula (VIa) as defined in claim 3.

28. (new) A compound of general formula (VIb) as defined in claim 6.

29. (new) A compound of general formula (Va) or (Vb) as defined in claim 2.

30. (new) A compound of general formula (IVa) or (IVb) as defined in claim 1.

31. (new) A compound of general formula (IXb) as defined in claim 8.